

GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Definition	General practitioner (GP): is a physician whose practice is not limited to a specific clinical specialty but instead covers a variety of clinical problems in patients of all ages. They focus on the health of the whole person combining physical, psychological, and social aspects of care.
Scope of practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GPs conduct comprehensive patient assessments including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Medical and Surgical History: obtain detailed current medical, past medical, allergy, medication, family, and surgical history, as well as vaccination history as applicable. 1.2 Physical Examinations: perform thorough physical examinations to assess patients' general health and specific concerns as applicable. 1.3 Investigations: order and interpret pertinent laboratory, radiological, and/or diagnostic tests. 2. GPs diagnose and treat a wide range of medical conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Diagnosis: use clinical judgment and best clinical practice to diagnose acute and chronic illnesses, injuries, and health concerns. 2.2 Treatment Planning: develop and implement tailored treatment plans, incorporating medical interventions, lifestyle modifications, and patient education. 2.3 Prescribing Medications: prescribe medications judiciously, considering safety, efficacy, and potential interactions. 3. GPs must be up to date with evidence-based practice and adhere to the national and institutional clinical best practice to ensure the provision of effective and high-quality care. 4. GPs must recognize and acknowledge limits of their scope of practice and make timely referrals of patients to secondary hospitals and other medical services for acute or chronic conditions requiring expert evaluation and management. 5. GPs have an ethical duty to recognize and acknowledge the DHP code of conduct. They must consistently prioritize patient safety and well-being while adhering to DHP ethical standards. Address ethical dilemmas related to patient care and healthcare policies, upholding ethical standards, and advocating for patient's best interests. 6. GPs manage and regularly monitor patients with uncomplicated chronic health conditions and adjust treatment plans as needed to optimize health outcomes. 7. GPs provide preventive medicine care: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Vaccinations: administer and recommend vaccinations to protect against infectious diseases. 7.2 Health Screenings: encourage and perform routine health screenings, promoting early detection of health issues. 8. GPs demonstrate and provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1 Health Promotion & Education: provide the patients and their families with the necessary consultations, counseling, health education, and promotion on managing acute, and chronic conditions, including medication adherence, lifestyle modifications, and self-care strategies. 8.2 Informed Decision-Making: ensure that patients receive clear and understandable information about their health conditions, treatment options, and potential risks and benefits.

	<p>8.3 Shared Decision-Making: collaborate with patients in making informed decisions about their healthcare, respecting their values and preferences.</p> <p>9. Support emergency and urgent care: GPs can provide initial stabilization for patients with emergency or urgent situations until specialized help arrives.</p> <p>10. GPs should maintain accurate and comprehensive patient records. They must document detailed medical histories, examination findings, diagnoses, treatment plans, and follow-up notes in a timely manner.</p> <p>11. GPs should foster open and effective communication within the healthcare team and work collaboratively to provide comprehensive patient care. When necessary, GPs should share patient information appropriately to facilitate clinical decision-making and preserve confidentiality.</p> <p>12. GPs participate in quality assurance and improvement initiatives aimed at enhancing patient safety and the overall quality of care.</p> <p>13. GPs stay updated on administrative best practices guidelines and regulations to maintain a high standard of healthcare administration.</p> <p>14. GPs should show an understanding of medico-legal matters and comply with relevant DHP guidelines, local regulations, and State of Qatar laws.</p> <p>15. Contributes to scientific research and publication of knowledge relevant to their practice.</p> <p>16. Demonstrates ability for reflective practice, professional growth, and lifelong learning</p>
Clinical core privileges	<p>In addition to the above, General Practitioner can perform the following procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drawing of arterial, venous, or peripheral blood and the routine examination of the blood. 2. Urinary bladder catheterization and routine urinalysis. 3. Nasogastric intubation and gastric lavage. 4. Collection of and examination of stool samples. 5. Collection of materials for bacteriological or viral culture. 6. Performing and reading of pulmonary function tests. 7. Performing and reading of electrocardiograms. 8. Reading plain X-rays 9. Injections - subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intravenous only. 10. Immunizations. 11. Administration of subcutaneous local anesthesia 12. Removal of cast. 13. Suturing-single layer closure of small wounds 14. Wound debridement. 15. Removal of sutures 16. Removal of drains 17. Groshong catheter removal 18. Placement of Aspen collars
References	PHCC Qatar